

March 2, 1984

LB 920

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, this is a good deed in a dark corner. We have a crazy quilt of policy in the absentee voters area and Pat Morehead has drawn order from chaos. The committee has assisted it to the extent that we have referred...we have gone through the bill and attempted to make some clarifications. We have struck some of the original provisions, striking, for example, the availability on strictly age or distance to the poll as qualifying, but...and striking the language that required illness or infirmity to be shown as for one's reason to be physically unable to go to the polls. We allow absentee ballots for those who are physically unable to go to the polls, whether they are locked up or whether they are at the Regional Center, whether they are aged and infirm or whether they are disabled or handicapped, or whatever. We have one absentee voters policy following the passage of 920. We indicate...we change the minimal things such as the postage requirements in certain cases. To reduce costs we added some clarifying language to make certain that it was the person's spouse, child or parent that could deliver an absentee ballot to them. We removed obsolete language declaring it unlawful not to return absentee ballots because it was never enforced. We changed some grammar to the better. We provided an effective date of January 1, 1985. And there is a second amendment in which we indicate that when you request an absentee ballot for a primary race which you are either a Republican or a Democrat you have a duty to indicate which of those two ballots you want. And those are the two committee amendments. They will take separate votes but I would ask for their adoption at this time.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The question is the adoption of the committee amendments. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. There are two separate committee amendments. We are voting on the first one, of course. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of the first committee amendment, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, this is the second of the two.